

UCRSF
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9/11/09

Teck

PROGRESS REPORT NO. 38

TO: Helen Bottcher – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - via Email
FROM: Marko Adzic – Teck American Incorporated (Teck)
DATE: September 11, 2009 **FILE NO:** 1-773180-000
RE: Upper Columbia River (UCR) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS) - Progress Report No. 38 Month Ending August 2009

Pursuant to Paragraph 39 of the June 2, 2006 Settlement Agreement (Agreement), the following is intended to provide a summary of the activities completed during the past month in compliance with the aforementioned Agreement. It is also intended to provide a brief summary of pending and on-going activities.

With the approval of the 2009/2010 Surface Water Study Plan¹, water sampling activities in Canada (i.e., Waneta) were initiated in September 2009 and will continue as outlined within the approved Quality Assurance project Plan (QAPP). It is anticipated that transect sampling within the Site will begin on October 7, 2009 and continue through to October 16, 2009. All necessary research permits have been attained from the participating parties; and the Canadian Government has reaffirmed their approval and permission to collect surface water samples in Canada.

With the approval of the 2009 Fish Tissue Study² field sampling activities are scheduled to begin on September 29, 2009 and continue through October 11, 2009. As outlined within the QAPP, depending on fish capture rates, the actual duration of fish sampling events may extend beyond October 11th. All necessary research (participating parties) and scientific collection (Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife) permits have been obtained.

The 2009/2010 beach sediment sampling program was initiated on September 8, 2009.

Field and laboratory based surface water toxicity testing on early life stages of white sturgeon will be completed in the month of September 2009, and as with the work completed in 2008 this information will be used to help inform the RI/FS.

¹ The Quality Assurance Project Plan for the 2009/2010 Surface Water Study was conditionally and then officially approved on August 25, 2009 and September 2, 2009, respectively.

² The Quality Assurance Project Plan for the 2009 Fish Tissue Study was officially approved on August 26, 2009.

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Technical review comments are pending on the following draft submittals:

- Screening level ecological risk assessment (March 11, 2008);
- Plankton sampling plan (July 18, 2008); and
- Baseline ecological risk assessment (BERA) work plan (July 23, 2009).

During the next several months, Teck will continue to work on developing technical deliverables that will facilitate the following 2010 field sampling efforts as outlined within the draft BERA work plan: sediment sampling, sediment toxicity testing, and surface soil sampling.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 509-892-2585.